

**RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC TRANSIT AUTHORITY
STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF January 5, 2012 MEETING**

Board Members Present: Steve Durkee, Chair; Maureen Martin; and Michael Lewis.

Other Committee Members Present: John Flaherty; Kevin Flynn; Steve Devine; and Everett Stewart.

Absent: Christopher Kearns; Paul Harrington; and Michael Walker

Also Present: Charles Odimgbe; Mark Therrien; Amy Pettine; Ellen Mandly and members of the public whose names are on the meeting sign-in sheet.

Steve Durkee opened the meeting at 8:32 and introduced himself and said he was asked to serve as the Chair of the Committee. He pointed out that there were a few new members on the Committee asked that each member introduce themselves and give a brief background.

Following the introductions, Amy Pettine gave a history of the Strategic Planning Committee and described the initiatives the Committee had tackled over the past two years chiefly authoring the Strategic Plan which was finalized and distributed in September of

2011. Ms. Pettine also discussed the strategic plan priorities created from the 5-year plan. Mr. Durkee suggested that going forward the Committee meet on a quarterly basis rather than monthly, then he asked that the priorities be assembled in a spreadsheet type format to help the committee keep better track of progress. Some of the newer members gave their impressions of the strategic plan and also asked questions regarding same. Funding of the plan is now the major challenge.

Chief Executive Officer Charles Odimgbe spoke next and said the Committee had spelled out the future with the plan, and they now need to look at that document and prioritize the initiatives so that he and staff can work on same and report quarterly on the progress. Maureen Martin agreed with this plan and also asked that a tracking document be compiled. She said this will be a useful tool for her lobbying for RIPTA at the state house. Mr. Lewis agreed and said the Committee needs to prioritize and continue to discuss issues such as the streetcar and how and if to fund that project and others. Mr. Durkee agreed and said tracking will also help keep track of short term projects and longer term projects such as the core connector.

John Flaherty said communication is the key and we need to make transportation easier to use and more accessible and work to attract core riders. Steve Devine said communication among agencies such as Statewide Planning and RIDOT are also vital. Kevin Flynn added that we must also coordinate with the TIP which is the roadmap in the

financially constrained State. Mr. Lewis said RIPTA should coordinate full transit for the State. A brief discussion regarding collaboration was the held.

Mr. Flaherty said there is genuine desire to fix the state's transportation problems, but a lack of confidence from some of those in charge of the finances. Mr. Durkee said much of this is due to misinformation. Mr. Odimgbe asked that he be made aware of any specific concerns. A brief discussion was held on ongoing RIPTA initiatives such as rapid bus and the bus stop inventory and additional conversation about funding and how to get corporate sponsorship/funding for transportation. Michael Lewis said work is happening behind the scenes to identify funding with the Governor who recognizes the value of RIPTA and GA.

The committee held a discussion of business to partner with to promote transportation and following this discussion Mr. Odimgbe said it is critical that the service standards be updated before and the comprehensive operational analysis complete before any major change in service happens. Following this the Committee held a brief discussion on the frequency of meetings and it was agreed to have one more meeting next month and then begin meeting quarterly.

There was no public comment nor was there any old business.

There being no further business Mr. Lewis made a motion to adjourn

the meeting and Ms. Martin. The meeting was unanimously adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen M. Mandly

Recording Secretary